



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Sep 20, 2004**

**BANGLADESH**

**Pneumonia Affects 42 People, Kills 6 in B'baria, Bangladesh**

Pneumonia killed six children and affected 42 in the district in past three days. The disease claimed at least 66 children and affected 4318 in the last three months. Pneumonia became widespread after the floods which inundated the entire district. Patients with acute respiratory infection (ARI) are being brought to different hospitals in large numbers every day. The death rate is high because parents bring their children to hospitals too late when their conditions become very serious. A special program is being launched to educate the population about pneumonia and create a greater awareness.

**Source:**

· News From Bangladesh, Sep 21, 2004, <http://www.bangladesh-web.com/view.php?hidDate=2004-09-21&hidType=LOC&hidRecord=0000000000000000022348>

**CAMBODIA**

**Avian Influenza Detected Near Cambodian Capital**

A farm near the Cambodian capital is closed after approximately 2300 chickens died of avian influenza, the first cases in the country following an epidemic in Asia earlier this year. The remaining 2200 birds at the farm, located about 5 km (3 miles) outside Phnom Penh, were destroyed on 22 September 2004. Testing by the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh confirmed the bird flu strain of H5N1. The earlier outbreak of avian influenza killed, or forced the destruction of more than 100 million birds across 10 Asian countries. It jumped from poultry to humans in Viet Nam and Thailand, killing 28 people. Avian influenza was found in 12 areas of Cambodia during the epidemic. There were no human victims in the country, but, more than 30 000 chickens, ducks, and other fowl were killed to prevent the disease from spreading. Avian influenza has a seasonal pattern -- the survival and the viability of influenza A virus are known to increase at low temperatures.

**Source:**

· The Star Online, Sep 22, 2004, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2004/9/22/latest/18992Birdflud&sec=latest>  
· Promed Mail, Sep 22, 2004, [http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,26747](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,26747)

## **FIJI**

### **Outbreak of Undiagnosed Illness in Fiji**

An undiagnosed influenza outbreak in Fiji is causing concern within the Ministry of Health. The source of the outbreak has yet to be identified. A total of 16,484 influenza-like cases had been reported from hospitals and health centers around the country from January to early September 2004. The influenza is more prominent in densely populated areas of Fiji. Blood samples from patients were tested for influenza A and B, dengue, and leptospirosis, but the results were negative. Further samples will be sent to Australia early next week. The symptoms are cough, sore throat, fever and body aches. There are no rash or skin hemorrhagic lesions noted and there has been no case of bleeding or death. The population is being asked to be alert for symptoms and to pay attention to their health.

**Source:**

· Fiji Times, Sep 24, 2004, <http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=8836>  
· Promed Mail, Sep 24, 2004,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:7417659323071041538::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,26771](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:7417659323071041538::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,26771)

## **INDIA**

### **13 People Contract Anthrax in West Bengal, India**

Thirteen people have contracted anthrax by eating the meat of an anthrax-afflicted cow in West Bengal's Murshidabad district. Anthrax is a disease that afflicts cattle and is then transmitted to humans. The affected people were residents of the Bagdanaga and Sultanpur villages of the district. In Murshidabad district since January 2004 a total of 87 people have been affected by anthrax.

**Source:**

· SIFY News, Sep 23, 2004, <http://headlines.sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=13564253&headline=Anthrax-affects-13-people-in-W-Bengal>  
· Promed Mail, Sep 24, 2004,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15986749236261135969::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,26761](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:15986749236261135969::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,26761)

### **Encephalitis Kills Seven More People in Gorakhpur, India**

Encephalitis killed seven additional people during the past 36 hours in the Gorakhpur division bringing the total number of deaths from the disease to 135 this season. Currently, as many as 592 patients suffering from Encephalitis are undergoing treatment in the BRD medical college in Gorakhpur.

**Source:**

· Hindustan Times, Sep 22, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1019208,0050.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1019208,0050.htm)

### **11 People Die of Diarrhea From Polluted Water in the Jalpaiguri District, India**

Eleven people including four children have died of diarrhea in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district during the last 15 days. Ten people including three children have died of diarrhea at the Satali tea garden while one child died at Bharnabari tea garden in the district. The cause of the diarrhea was the use of polluted water, which was collected by the tea garden employees from a damaged pipeline. Medical teams have rushed to the affected tea gardens with the necessary medications.

**Source:**

· Hindustan Times, Sep 20, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1016128,000900030001.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1016128,000900030001.htm)

## **24 People Die of Undiagnosed Disease in Utttar Pradesh Village, India**

An undiagnosed illness in Gurdhapa village, in the Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh in northern India, has killed at least 24 people in one week. Over 50 others have been afflicted with the disease in the village of 900 people. Villagers started suffering from shivering with high fever followed by dysentery and vomiting. Health teams from Mahmudabad and Lucknow will conduct studies and assist the affected villagers. It is not clear if the disease is viral or bacterial in origin. According to the numbers given, about 5 per cent of the village population were affected and, of those there was a 48 per cent case fatality rate. Unless the disease can be identified, the appropriate treatment will not be possible. It is suspected that the disease may be Japanese encephalitis infection, a vaccine-preventable disease caused by a flavivirus. It is endemic to and occurs annually in this region of India. Case fatality rates have been reported in the range of 10 to 40 %.

### **Source:**

· Xinhua net, Sep 20, 2004, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-09/20/content\\_1998688.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-09/20/content_1998688.htm)  
· Hindustan Times, Sep 20, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/5922\\_1014965.0015002200000085.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/5922_1014965.0015002200000085.htm)  
· Promed Mail, Sep 20, 2004,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,26736](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,26736)  
· Promed Mail, Sep 21, 2004,  
[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,26741](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:424240::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,26741)

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Dengue Cases Continue in Malaysia**

Dengue fever has reached a weekly peak of 332 cases in the final week of August, surpassing last year's high of 258. While the number of cases have decreased to 263 for the past week, it is difficult to determine if the situation has indeed stabilized. As of last week, the total number of dengue fever cases was 5,248, a 48% rise over the same period last year. Personal homes are the major factor in controlling mosquitoes. A National Environment Agency check of more than 228,000 homes this year found them accounting for 60% of mosquito-breeding cases and the number of homes breeding mosquitoes has been increasing.

### **Source:**

· The Star Online, Sep 23, 2004, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2004/9/23/asia/8957944&sec=asia>

## **PHILIPPINES**

### **Rabies Cases Increasing in South Cotabato, Philippines**

Concerned by the increasing cases of dog bites and rabies infections, South Cotabato officials have launched a massive vaccination of all four-legged animals especially dogs and cats in the province. The goal is to eliminate rabies in the province over the next two years. Rabies is an acute viral disease of the central nervous system transmitted to humans by the bite or saliva of an infected animal. It is invariably fatal unless properly treated before the symptoms appear. From January to July 2004, the provincial health office recorded at least seven deaths due to rabies, the highest recorded for the period since 1997 (since 1997, the average was five deaths a year). In August veterinary and health officials here declared an outbreak of the rabies virus after 26 people were found to be positive. For animal bites, at least 109 cases were recorded in the province from January to June this year.

**Source:**

· *Mindanews*, Sep 22, 2004, <http://www.mindanews.com/2004/09/22nws-rabies.html>

## **SINGAPORE**

### **Dengue Fever Cases in Singapore Increase to Record Levels**

Dengue fever, a sometimes fatal disease carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, is rising to near record levels this year in Singapore. Teams of volunteers have been sent out to check housing estates and parks to eliminate breeding sites. Dengue fever has become a major international public health concern, with the World Health Organization issuing an alert on 2 September due to a resurgence of cases in the region. Singapore, with a population of over four million, had suffered 5,248 dengue cases by 18 September - a 48% increase over the same period in 2003. The highest number of dengue fever cases recorded in the island republic was in 1998 at 5,258. Three people have died from the disease this year.

**Source:**

· *Utusan Online*, Sep 22, 2004,

[http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0923&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_01.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0923&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_01.htm)

## **Other World News**

## **WORLD**

### **TB Could Make Dangerous Comeback With New Antibiotic Resistant Strains**

Two separate studies show that multiple-drug-resistant TB, which can only be cured with a carefully monitored cocktail of drugs, could start spreading more commonly. The reports, to be published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, coincide with another report published last week saying the World Health Organization's efforts to control multi-drug-resistant TB were not working as well as hoped. TB could make a dangerous new resurgence with new strains that are more difficult to fight. TB infects an estimated 8.7 million people a year and kills 2 million a year despite widespread control efforts. TB is making special gains in Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. TB strains resistant to several antibiotics are becoming increasingly prevalent, with "hot spots" in Russia, Eastern Europe, South Africa, China and Israel.

**Source:**

· *Hindustan Times*, Sep 20, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1015333.0050.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1015333.0050.htm)

· *Utusan Online*, Sep 19, 2004,

[http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0920&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_02.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0920&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_02.htm)

### **WHO Issues Clean Water Guide to Help Prevent Water-Borne Diseases**

The World Health Organization has issued new guidelines on preventing contamination of drinking water supplies. Only 50% of the global population has access to running water at home, while the rest rely on wells or rivers. The updated guidelines aim to help authorities improve water quality from the source to the tap or rural well. The guidelines include instructions on ensuring reservoirs or wells avoid the risk of contamination from human and animal waste, as well as basic advice such as regular changing of water filters. The guide includes advice on handling humanitarian crises such as in Darfur in western Sudan, where a hepatitis epidemic due to poor sanitation has struck 4,524 people, killing 73. Another 1,292 cases and 42 deaths have been reported among

refugees in eastern Chad who fled the violence in Darfur.

**Source:**

· Utusan Online, Sep 22, 2004,

[http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0923&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_02.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=0923&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_02.htm)

**U.N. Warns the Spread of HIV/AIDS Accelerating a Global Tuberculosis Crisis**

The spread of HIV/AIDS is accelerating a tuberculosis crisis that could infect one billion people in the next 20 years, the U.N. warns. Thirty-five million people could also die of TB in that time if its growth continues unchecked, the World Health Organization said during a two-day conference in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The conference is seeking to promote joint treatment of the two diseases. AIDS kills 8,000 people worldwide each day while another 5,000 die from TB. TB is the leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS. TB infects an estimated 8.7 million people a year and kills 2 million each year. It is spread by airborne bacteria that settle into the lungs and cause long-term infection. Many people who are infected do not become ill themselves but can spread it. The interaction of TB and HIV may evolve into a global public health crisis compounded by the appearance of drug-resistant TB strains.

**Source:**

· ABC News, Sep 19, 2004, [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20040920\\_614.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/ap20040920_614.html)

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*The Asia-Pacific Disease Outbreak/Surveillance News is meant for informational purposes only. As such, the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COEDMHA) does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information and of any statements or opinions based thereon. COEDMHA's Pacific Disaster Management Information Network (PDMIN) team surveys, compiles and disseminates news reports from various publicly available newswires, websites, and health information networks including but not limited to the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and ProMed. Some information is presented in its original version. The information contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of the COEDMHA.*